

advance of the examination by the Pension Office. Does Mr. Bentley suppose that men of business are ready to throw away their time, their correspondence, the postage which they have to pay, for the sake of getting up fraudulent cases, and that a whole class of men are ready and willing to suborn perjury, with all the chances of defeat and disgrace?

It is to the interest of the claim agent that he takes no claim which is not on its face just and right, and thus practically you have the judgment, in advance, of an expert whose opinion is worth fully as much as that of a clerk in the Pension Office. And this course is just to the claimant. They are generally persons of small means, if not in actual poverty. To require them to pay in advance, or, at all events, for services to be rendered, would be a denial of justice.

If the course recommended by the Commissioner should be the law, then, indeed, you might expect the pension claimants to be deliberately robbed. Then all cases of all sorts would be taken for the preliminary fee, and without examination. Then, instead of a class of men who make this law and its practice their study, every shyster who could get hold of an alleged claim would start it for the sake of the fee.

Again, the Commissioner says: "Many of whom [claim agents] have been detected in attempting to defraud both the Government and their clients, thus subjecting them as a class to a measure of suspicion."

Does Mr. Bentley mean to impugn the character of all persons who act as pension attorneys? He will hardly venture so rash an assertion. Yet, if he does not so mean, he had no right to use such sweeping statements. And yet, in a grave official communication, the Commissioner ventures to slander a body of men—to slur their good name and fame—as one of the "reasons" why he cannot believe what is shown to him by unquestioned legal evidence. It is very disingenuous, and shows the straits to which he must have been reduced.

So, too, in pursuit of the same object, he cannot resist the temptation to charge another large class with neglect of sworn duty, and with conniving at and taking part in impositions upon the United States. Now, the medical profession, as a rule, is one of high honor; and these examiners or examining surgeons are the select ones, chosen by the Commissioner himself. Yet he does not hesitate to charge them with gross dereliction of duty, of yielding to local influences of a base and personal character, and of being willing parties to the grand conspiracy which his jaundiced imagination has detected against "the peace and dignity of the Pension Office" and the purse of the nation.

And all this array of insinuations is merely the base from which he moves forward to repeat again his grand panacea for all ills—the creation of an ambulatory body of select appointees, whose duty it shall be to throw every obstacle in the way of all claims, just and unjust.

We have in previous numbers dwelt sufficiently upon this wild notion of the Commissioner, and shown how utterly foreign it is to American character and habits of thought; with what ingenuity it is contrived to fasten a lot of supernumerary barnacles upon the system, and to put into full organization the great principle of "How not to do it."

One thing more in this extraordinary letter, and we have done for the present. It is the statement that the payment of attorneys' fees by the pension agent is a hardship on the agent.

Mr. Bentley neglects to state to the committee that the pension agents are allowed to take out of each fee the sum of "thirty cents" as compensation for their time and labor; and this

compensation is a very liberal one, and entirely satisfactory to the pension agents, whatever it may be to the attorneys.

#### What They Say of Us.

The following are specimens of letters coming to us by the hundred from all parts of the United States:

WILSON STATION, KANSAS, March 3, 1878.

The more I read your paper the more anxious I am to have it. P. S.

MARENA, IOWA, March 2, 1878.

I feel like I had found a new friend. I should like to see you make it warm for them. S. J. G.

FAIRBANKS, IOWA, March 3, 1878.

Nail the "Stars and Stripes" to the mast and the boys in blue will stand by you. "ELEVEN BOYS IN BLUE."

CARRIER'S MILLS, SALINE CO., ILLINOIS, February 22, 1878.

It's just the right thing for the soldier. I like the way it treats on the pension laws. I wish you success, and all I have to say is, "just go for em." W. T. D.

RACINE, WISCONSIN, February 22, 1878.

Accept my thanks for the stand you have taken in our behalf. May your little paper live, and may you see the fruits of your labor. N. G. E.

ELIZABETHPORT, N. J., March 6, 1878.

You will please send me your NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and I feel it a pleasure to myself and to you, that since I received your paper at New Years, that I have secured three subscribers for your paper in the State of New Jersey, men that had never seen or heard of the NATIONAL TRIBUNE. B. N. W.

GAINESVILLE, COOK CO., TEXAS, February 1, 1878.

There is only a skirmish post of us here in Cook county, but we want the NATIONAL TRIBUNE. A. W. H.

MARSHALL, MICHIGAN, February 6, 1878.

I should have been glad to have subscribed long ere this, had I known of its publication. It is just what every soldier needs and fills the canteen to the stopper, when for so long there has been so great a vacuum, and all enquiring can obtain reliable information to what pertains especially to themselves. P. S. SCHUYLER, Late Captain Company H, 2d Mich. Cavalry.

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT, February 28, 1878.

It is the best thing out for the soldier, I shall recommend it. S. W. T.

DIXON, LEE CO., ILLINOIS, March 8, 1878.

I am highly pleased with the open, frank and intelligent manner in which you set forth the interests of the soldier. G. T. H.

ELIZABETH, W. VA., January 8, 1878.

I do very heartily subscribe for your most excellent paper, I think it is more to the purpose than any that I have seen. E. R.

HANOVER, MASS., January 15, 1878.

Enclosed you will find fifty cents for the NATIONAL TRIBUNE for one year, a paper I think highly of, and one I believe will be a benefit to our soldiers, who suffered for their country.

If you do not want to be dropped from the Pension rolls nor have your Pension reduced, subscribe for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. Subscription price, only fifty cents a year.

In future numbers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, we will call attention to certain abuses in the Pension Office, which must be corrected.

Soldiers, stand by THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. Give us a circulation of 250,000, and we will put through the Pension and Bounty Bills, and will effect the needed reforms in the Pension Office. Do not delay. Decide fairly, frankly, and at once.

#### A Ridiculous Myth.

The New York Times says: "It is an insult to human intelligence to ask any man to accept as history this ridiculous myth. We never had any civil war. Intelligent men do not fight for four years and finally conquer their foes, only to throw away all the fruits of victory and to beg the vanquished to come and rule over them. The American civil war deserves to be classed with the Trojan war, and it is quite possible that the former is merely a variation of the latter and older legend."

## WAR OF 1812!

### A NEW PENSION LAW!

#### Glad Tidings to Survivors and Widows!

By act of Congress, approved March 9, 1878, all surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval service, who served 14 days or were in any engagement, and were honorably discharged, and the surviving widows of such, are entitled to pension at the rate of \$8 per month from the passage of this act.

The following is the full and correct text of the law:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension-rolls the names of the surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, without regard to color, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval service of the United States who served for fourteen days in the war with Great Britain of 1812, or who were in any engagement and were honorably discharged, and the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted and drafted men.

SEC. 2. That this act shall not apply to any person who is receiving a pension at the rate of \$8 per month or more, nor to any person receiving a pension of less than \$8 per month, except for the difference between the pension now received (if less than \$8 per month) and \$8 per month. Pensions under this act shall be at the rate of \$8 per month, except as herein provided, and shall be paid to the persons entitled thereto, from and after the passage of this act, for and during their natural lives: *Provided*, That the pensions to widows provided for in this act shall cease when they shall marry again.

SEC. 3. That before the name of any person shall be placed upon the pension-rolls, under this act proof shall be made, under such rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Pensions with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, shall prescribe, that the applicant is entitled to a pension under this act; and any person who shall falsely take any oath required to be taken under the provisions of this act shall be guilty of perjury; and the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be stricken from the rolls the name of any person when it shall appear, by proof satisfactory to him, that such name was put on said rolls by or through false or fraudulent representations, or by mistake as to the right of such person to a pension under this act. The loss or lack of a certificate of discharge shall not deprive the applicant of the benefit of this act, but other proof of service performed and of an honorable discharge if satisfactory, shall be deemed sufficient; and when there is no record evidence of such service and such discharge, the applicant may establish the same by other satisfactory testimony: *Provided*, That when any person has been granted a land-warrant, under any act of Congress, for and on account of service in the said war of 1812, such grant shall be *prima-facie* evidence of his service and honorable discharge, so as to entitle him, if living, or his widow if he be dead, to a pension under this act; but such evidence shall not be conclusive, and may be rebutted by evidence that such land-warrant was improperly granted.

SEC. 4. That all applications for pensions of the classes provided for in this act heretofore or which may hereafter be made shall be considered and decided as though made under this act; and all laws now in force in regard to the manner of paying pensions, and in reference to the punishment of frauds, shall be applicable to all claims under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to restore to the pension-rolls the names of all persons now surviving heretofore pensioned on account of service in the war of 1812 against Great Britain or for service in any of the Indian wars, and whose names were stricken from the rolls in pursuance of the act entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension-rolls the names of such persons as have taken up arms against the Government or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels," approved February 4, 1862; and that the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution prohibiting payment by any officer of the Government to any person not known to have been opposed to the rebellion and in favor of its suppression," approved March 2, 1867, and section 4716 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, shall not apply to the persons provided for by this act: *Provided*, That no money shall be paid to any one on account of pensions for the time during which his name remained stricken from the rolls.

SEC. 6. That the surviving widow of any pensioner of the war 1812, where the name of said pensioner was stricken from the pension-rolls in pursuance of the act entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension-rolls the names of such persons as have taken up arms against the Government or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels," approved February 4, 1862, and where, under the existing provisions of law, said pensioner died without his name being restored to the rolls, shall be entitled to make claim for a pension as such widow after the passage of this act: *Provided*, That no such arrearages shall be paid for any period prior to the time of the removal of the disability of the pensioner, as provided in section five: *And provided further*, That under this act any widow of a revolutionary soldier who served fourteen days or was in any engagement shall be placed upon the pension-rolls of the United States and receive a pension at the rate of \$8 per month.

SEC. 7. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act, be, and they are hereby, repealed.

All persons included in above law should send names and addresses to GEORGE E. LEMON, Lock Box 47, Washington, D. C.